

**Methow Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
June 21, 2012**

Council Members present: Dick Ewing, Vice-Chairman Brian Fisher, Vicky Welch, Clint Estes (Council Member Town of Twisp), Hans Smith (Alternate/Twisp Mayor Appointee), Council Coordinator Lee Hatcher and Jackie Moriarty, Secretary.

Guests: Kent Woodruff, Wildlife Biologist for the Methow Valley Ranger District, Aimee Grant, Town of Twisp Grant Administrator and Tim Flynn and Owen Reese, Aspect Consulting.

The meeting began at 5:15 pm; there was no quorum present but the meeting was recorded because of the two presentations made by Mr. Woodruff and Mr. Flynn and Mr. Reese.

Grants

Aimee Grant presented and reviewed the grant status reports. Ms. Grant reported that the deadline for closing out the Phase 4 and Water Storage Grants is July 20, 2012 and all deliverables are due no later than July 30, 2012 to the DOE.

Coordinator's Report

Coordinator Hatcher reported on the following:

- Grant Administrator Aimee Grant and Coordinator Hatcher reviewed the timeline of the Phase 4 Grant and the funds that were promised and received by the MWC. Hatcher believes that the DOE may owe the MWC an additional \$50,000 based on this research.
- He presented and reviewed the June – September 2012 timeline and reported on upcoming deadlines.
- He reminded everyone to turn their volunteer hours into Secretary Moriarty.

Action: Coordinator Hatcher will research with DOE the possibility of the additional funds.

Three Initiating Governments Reports

There were no Initiating Government reports.

Sub-Committee Reports

Political Action Committee

There was no report.

Technical Review Committee

Committee Chairman Fisher reported the committee met on June 7, 2012 to review the draft Water Storage Evaluation produced by Aspect Consulting. Fisher stated that the report was done well and that there were only minor comments.

Instream Flow Rule Revision Committee

Committee Chairman Smith reported that Mary McCrea was continuing her work for this committee to review in July.

Organizational Development Committee

Vice-Chair Ewing reported that he, Council Member Tackman and Coordinator Hatcher met with the Okanogan County Commissioners on June 4, 2012 to discuss the proposed re-organization of the MWC. Ewing stated it was a good presentation and the Commissioners were receptive to their proposition of the Walla Walla pilot project. The Commissioners were presented with the document for a 30 day review and comment period. Ewing will follow-up with the County Commissioners on July 4, 2012. Ewing reported the water banking and local control were popular concepts with the Commissioners.

Vice-Chair Ewing stated the next steps after receiving and reviewing the comments made by the Commissioners is to forward it to Senator Linda Evans-Parlette and Representative Cary Condotta asking them to take it to the Congress as a bill.

Water Storage Project – Aspect Presentation

Tim Flynn of Aspect Consulting discussed the draft Water Storage Evaluation. Mr. Flynn shared the process in which Aspect representatives narrowed down possible water storage sites from approximately 66 to 3. Owen Reese also of Aspect Consulting gave the Council a Power Point presentation showing statistics related to the Walking D, Beaver Creek/Micro-Storage and Davis Lake/Bear Creek. Aspect Consulting found that Davis Lake/Bear Creek seems to be the most viable option for the MWC. Both Beaver Creek and Walking D are much more costly and lack substantial enough storage to be of benefit.

In researching the Davis Lake/Bear Creek site, Aspect found that the Golf Course owners are willing to partner with MWC for the project. Currently the diversion dates are October 1st – April 15, the MWC may need to explore either changing these dates or changing the diversion points for this project to work.

Mr. Reese reviewed the following specific points of the project:

Infrastructure

- Improve diversion
- Improve existing pipe
- New conveyance to Bear Creek Golf Course
- Pump station at Big Davis Lake
- Estimated project cost is \$470,000 or \$3,100 per acre foot; this is within the DOE's range to consider as a reasonable cost.

Benefits

- Habitat
- Irrigation
- Town of Twisp

Data Gaps and Challenges

- Monitoring lake water levels
- Assess seepage from the lake
- Assess water quality impacts to the lake

Next Steps for Davis Lake

- Confirm participation of all land owners
- Monitor Davis Lake/Bear Creek hydrology

- Model Davis Lake water balance
- Research existing water rights
- Coordinate with lake residents
- Engineering design for pipelines

The Council was asked to review the draft Water Storage Evaluation and send any comments to Coordinator Hatcher by June 25, 2012.

Methow Beaver Relocation Project

Kent Woodruff, Beaver Relocation Project Manager and Wildlife Biologist for the Methow Valley Ranger District reported to the Council on the benefits of each of the proposed water storage sites if beavers were located to those areas. Mr. Woodruff stated that studies of beaver relocations have been going on in the Methow Valley for approximately 5 years; there have been 12 successful relocations to date. Currently temperature and discharge studies are being done related to beaver ponds and underground water storage gained by the ponds. Mr. Woodruff stated the Walking D is the best site for a relocation project of the three proposed sites. Mr. Woodruff will be providing the Council with the next steps related to his studies.

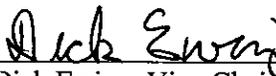
Next Meeting (July 19, 2012) - Agenda Items

- Water Storage Evaluation
- Project Planning

Adjournment

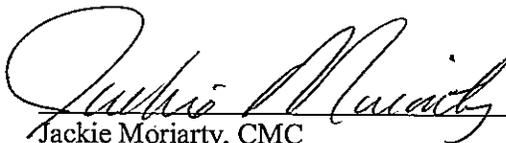
The meeting ended at 7:10 pm.

APPROVED:



Dick Ewing, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:



Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary